

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



June 26, 2015

The Honorable Troy Kelley
Washington State Auditor
Insurance Building
302 Sid Snyder Avenue SW
Olympia, Washington 98504-0021

Dear Troy:

The Office of the State Auditor is an institution with the unique mission of auditing how state and local public agencies use public resources. The people of Washington State rely on the State Auditor's office to tell them the facts. In order for the people to trust these facts, the people must trust the integrity of the Office of State Auditor. They must trust that the person elected as State Auditor and the staff who work for the elected official are doing the job of protecting the way public money is spent.

You have chosen voluntarily to take an indefinite leave of absence from a position to which you were elected to serve the public. Although the Washington State Constitution is clear that the Office of the State Auditor must be held by an elected official, it is silent on the matter of what happens when a non-elected official is appointed to fulfill the duties of the elected official. There is also no precedent in state law or practice that allows a statewide elected official to take a long-term leave of absence.

Performing audits is the full-time responsibility of the Office of State Auditor. Those conducting the audits as well as those agencies subjected to audits need to know that the person elected as State Auditor will be the final authority to issue findings. There is no precedent for allowing a non-elected official to issue audit findings on behalf of the Office of State Auditor.

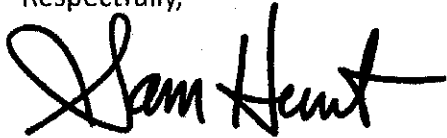
The State Auditor must be beyond reproach and have the trust of the people of Washington. Your personal actions have caused the public to question the integrity of the Office of the State Auditor. These personal actions as well as your decision to appoint a non-elected official to execute your elected duties have called into question the ability of the State Auditors' office to perform its mission during your indefinite leave of absence.

Please consider the harm being done to the public's confidence in the constitutional duties of the Office of the State Auditor. While you have the legal right to address your personal situation, we state legislators have an equal right to protect the integrity of the Washington State Constitution and the functions of our state agencies.

Because of our overriding interest in protecting the integrity of our state's institutions, we urge you to immediately resign your office in order to allow the people to have a State Auditor who is performing the duties of the office as required under the Washington State Constitution.

As you consider this request, we will continue to examine other legislative solutions to addressing this matter. The State Constitution clearly requires an elected official to execute the duties of the Office of the State Auditor. Your inability to execute these duties for an indefinite period raises serious constitutional concerns that we strongly believe must be addressed.

Respectfully,



Representative Sam Hunt, Chair
State Government Committee



Representative Gael Tarleton
Deputy Majority Floor Leader



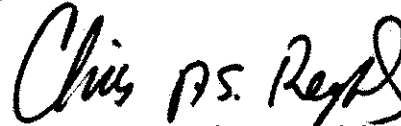
Representative Gerry Pollet, Vice Chair
Higher Education Committee



Representative Jim Moeller
Speaker Pro Tempore



Representative Sharon Wylie, Vice Chair
Commerce & Gaming Committee



Representative Chris Reykdal, Vice Chair
Education Committee



Representative Ross Hunter, Chair
Appropriations Committee



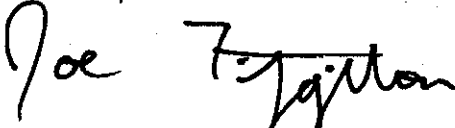
Representative Kevin Van De Wege
Majority Whip



Representative Christine Kilduff, Vice Chair
Judiciary Committee



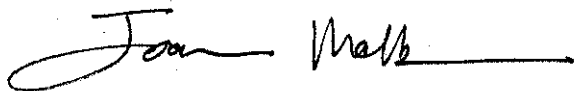
Representative Sherry Appleton, Chair
Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs



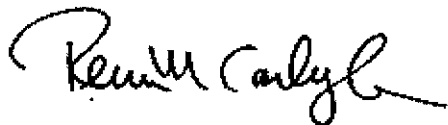
Representative Joe Fitzgibbon, Chair
Environment Committee



Representative Luis Moscoso, Vice Chair
Transportation Committee



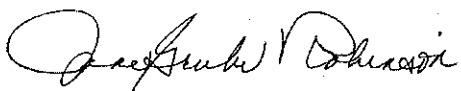
Representative Joan McBride
Assistant Majority Whip



Representative Reuven Carlyle, Chair
Finance Committee



Representative Ruth Kagi, Chair
Early Learning & Human Services Committee



Representative June Robinson, Vice Chair
Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs



Representative Laurie Jenkins, Chair
Judiciary Committee



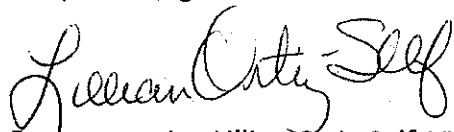
Representative Tana Senn, Vice Chair
General Government & Information Technology



Representative Jake Fey, Vice Chair
Transportation Committee



Representative Brady Walkinshaw, Vice Chair
Early Learning & Human Services Committee



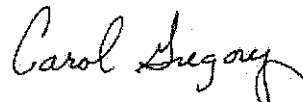
Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self, Vice Chair
Education Committee



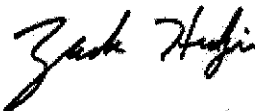
Representative Eileen Cody, Chair
Health Care & Wellness Committee



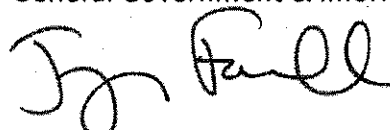
Representative Mia Gregerson, Vice Chair
Local Government Committee & Labor Committee



Representative Carol Gregory
30th Legislative District



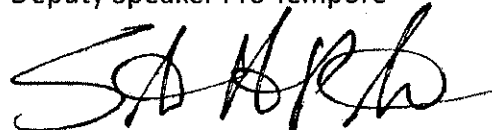
Representative Zack Hudgins, Chair
General Government & Information Technology



Representative Jessyn Farrell, Vice Chair
Transportation Committee



Representative Tina Orwall
Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore



Representative Strom Peterson, Vice Chair
Environment Committee



Representative Marcus Riccelli
Deputy Majority Whip

cc: Governor Jay Inslee